

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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# THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXX NUMBER 7

JULY 2022

## EBARC Meetings

July 8, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

TBA

Check your email for Zoom link



The Executive Board meets monthly before each general meeting. For the date, time, & location, contact officers at [EBHam.office@gmail.com](mailto:EBHam.office@gmail.com).

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*The Blown Fuse* is published monthly by the East Bay Amateur Radio Club, Inc. and is free to its members. *The Blown Fuse* welcomes articles of interest to its members and amateur radio in general. *The Blown Fuse* reserves the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Material submitted becomes the property of *The Blown Fuse*. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce material printed herein provided proper acknowledgment is given. Editor: Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ

Deadline for Aug. issue: Tues., Jul. 26<sup>th</sup>

Articles may be submitted by e-mail to [aa6xz@earthlink.net](mailto:aa6xz@earthlink.net).

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## July 8<sup>th</sup> EBARC Meeting

The general EBARC meeting will again be held as a virtual Zoom meeting only. The Zoom link will be sent via email and be posted on [ebarc.org](http://ebarc.org). We hope you join us! Because of the pandemic, future meetings for (TBD) more months will also be held via Zoom.

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## Last Call for Field Day 2022!

EBARC is delighted to once again operate as a club (W6CUS), jointly with KARO-ECHO, for Field Day. The joint exercise will take place on Saturday, June 25 at Canyon Trail Park (6757 Gatto Ave.) in El Cerrito. Operating hours will be from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., with setup prior and tear-down after. Use the form below to sign up for volunteer or operating slots. You can also call Howdy Goudey at 510-784-9097.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe8TInjBhcLEASYxgVgMca13AsHuHD8ApleKiAChtkHwY2c0Q/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe8TInjBhcLEASYxgVgMca13AsHuHD8ApleKiAChtkHwY2c0Q/viewform?usp=sf_link)

## Remembering Varon Smith, WS6V Peter Hoffman, W6DEI

"Our eyes met from across a crowded room" sounds like a line from a Jane Austen novel, or more likely, a cheap dime store romance. But this was the beginning of a "bromance" not a romance, and the crowded room was a 20-acre field at Point Isabel, the off-leash dog park in Richmond. That's where Varon and I met in 2001. I was walking my newly acquired / rescued border collie, Farley, when I saw a guy with what appeared to be a handi-talkie hanging from a strap on his shoulder. Was this a match made in heaven - a fellow dog walker and fellow ham? I had to go over and introduce myself. Varon was a little less effusive than I was; that's the difference in our personalities. So it wasn't an immediate friendship. However about a month later we found ourselves in Henry Primbsch's (KK6PH, SK) classroom where we both hoped to learn enough to pass our Extra Class license exam. "Didn't we meet at Point Isabel?" I asked Varon. That was enough to get our friendship off the ground. By the way, Varon took and passed the Extra exam after just 2 weeks of Henry's 9-week class, and I took and passed the exam about a week later. But we both enjoyed Henry's class so much (the best Elmer ever!) that we continued coming to class for the duration, enjoying every minute and learning a lot.

For the next 19 years Varon and I walked our dogs together every weekday morning, spanning several generations of dogs (do the math, that's nearly 3,000 dog walks)! Some days we'd walk along quietly and other times there were heated discussions about ham radio gear or our operating adventures, politics, family, you name it. Varon, though never a practicing attorney, had gone to law school and passed the bar exam many years ago, so it was always interesting to get his take on a Supreme Court case, or even a local criminal trial. We always had something to chat about even though our interests in ham radio were

fairly different (I'm a DXer and Varon an emergency preparedness guy). I had mobile QSOs with Varon when I'd take a driving vacation, and he'd do the same when he'd drive his camper down to the desert in Southern California to explore the flora and fauna. His interests were diverse and many. When his illness kicked in a few years ago, he met it with what seemed to me to be extraordinary bravery. His personality even appeared to blossom, our conversations becoming longer and more intimate. I'll always treasure our friendship and remember many hours of comradery with great fondness.

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## Celebration of Life for Doug Slusher, KF6AKU

Doug, the "go to guy" for repeaters in the area, died in May. The Celebration of Life for him is July 10<sup>th</sup>. See details in his obituary: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/marinij/name/douglas-slusher-obituary?id=35073577>

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## Treasurer's Report May 2022 Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, Treas.

### MAY GENERAL FUND<sup>1</sup>

Beginning Balance .....\$11,837.36

#### Income:

Earned Interest .....\$0.04

Total General Income: .....\$0.04

#### Disbursements:

Storage Locker.....\$134.00

Total General Disbursements .....\$134.00

Ending Balance.....\$11,703.40

(portion as petty cash .....\$40.00)

(portion as a US Bank CD ...\$5,000.00)

<sup>1</sup>\$100 earmarked for youth scholarships

You can now send electronic payments to EBARC via PayPal. Funds should be sent to [treasurer@ebarc.org](mailto:treasurer@ebarc.org). Edit the note area in PayPal to identify yourself and the payment's purpose (e.g. "dues" & callsign). Please do NOT provide any street address (this prevents PayPal from charging EBARC a "vendor" fee).

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## June 2022 General Minutes Todd Teachout, W8BIK, Secretary

The EBARC General Meeting was held June 10, 2022, virtually, via the Zoom internet conferencing application as a result of COVID-19 pandemic challenges limiting access to in-person meeting location. 16 people attended. The Zoom meeting announcement was distributed via e-mail on 6/10/2022.

President, Chris Harwood, AA6AT, called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm.

### Officer Reports:

Secretary: Secretary, Todd Teachout, W8BIK, reported that the draft May 2022 EBARC general meeting minutes were published in the June 2022 *Blown Fuse* newsletter. He reported receiving correction requests about an incorrect sentence that suggested that Field Day contacts made at the *Get on the Air* station and the VHF/UHF station do not count towards event score. They do count. The sentence saying that they didn't was deleted. He thanked those individuals who pointed out the error. He recommended the attendees approved the minutes. Chris, AA6AT, motioned that the group approve the May Minutes. Katie Carney, KN6APB, seconded the motion. Corrected Minutes were approved by affirmation.

Treasurer: Treasurer, Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, gave her report of club finances. For income there was \$0.04 in interest. For expenses there was \$134.00 for the equipment storage unit rental. The rental cost reflected an

increase of \$31 and 30% from the previous month's \$103. Ending balance for club account is \$11,703.40. Of this balance \$5,000.00 is in a certificate of deposit. There is \$40 in petty cash.

2nd VP-Membership/Newsletter/VE Testing: Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, reported the deadline for articles for the July 2022 *Blown Fuse* newsletter is noted in the newsletter (June 21). Rob Johnson, KK6JNI, joined EBARC in the last month. The pre-pandemic venue in Oakland for holding VE tests has still not been opened for such uses. An alternative pandemic-safe venue has not been located for doing inside sit-down tests. There are other test sessions with one happening at UC Berkeley (a.k.a. Cal) soon. Details about that Cal test session are expected to be included in the July *Blown Fuse*. Sharon mentioned she will be absent from the July EBARC meeting to attend an out-of-state event.

1st VP Programs: Katie, KN6APB, indicated today's meeting will be about Field Day 2022. See the *Program* section below for more discussion.

President: Chris, AA6AT, also brought up the topic of Field Day 2022. See the *Program* section.

Chris also reported on the *Museum Ships on the Air* event that occurred on April 4 and 5, 2022. He reported that he visited the USS Hornet aircraft carrier moored in Alameda on the 4<sup>th</sup>. He then visited the Red Oak Victory liberty ship moored in Richmond on the 5<sup>th</sup>. The Red Oak Victory has both vintage (maybe original) radio equipment and modern radio equipment in the radio room. The Red Oak Victory organizes a nearly monthly fundraising pancake breakfast with events scheduled for June 19<sup>th</sup>, August 14<sup>th</sup>, September 11<sup>th</sup>, and October 9<sup>th</sup>. A Father's Day activation will be done between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. with CW calls made on 7047.5 MHz (40m band). Radiograms can be created, too.

## Announcements-

1. Member Varon Smith, WS6V, passed away in April. He assisted in VE testing in the recent past. His wife Nancy has reached out to the club for help in liquidating Varon's radio gear. She can be reached at grannysmith1@earthlink.net
2. Not a member but a respected operator, Doug Slusher, KF6AKU, also recently passed. He was a member of the Marin Amateur Radio Society and was an expert on setting up repeaters. He also assisted in emergency service sporting events including bicycle 100 mile or 100 kilometer century rides.

Chris, AA6AT, encouraged those who knew Varon and/or Doug to prepare brief memorial statements and forward them to Sharon, AA6XZ, (EBHam.office@gmail.com) to include in a future *Blown Fuse*.

3. There will be a radio test happening in the Carriage Hills neighborhood of Richmond and the intersection of Appian Way and Valley View tomorrow. Castro Ranch Rd. goes through the Carriage Hills neighborhood. Due to the terrain, the area is reasonably remote and challenging to get UHF/VHF signals into and out of that area. They hope to use the repeaters operated by the Contra Costa Communications Club (145.111MHz, 444.275 MHz, 224.300 MHz). They also hope to test reception for GMRS Channel 19 (462.650MHz, simplex), 146.4150 MHz, simplex, and 441.000 MHz simplex frequencies that the KARO-ECHO club uses for their SET exercises.

**Old Business** In-Person Meeting Place: Not discussed

**New Business-** Field Day 2022, See **Program**

**Program:** Field Day 2022. Field Day is an annual big event on the calendar of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and many amateur radio clubs across the country, including EBARC. It is a contest to encourage amateur radio licensees to have fun, go outdoors away from their home, and operate remotely. Rules encourage participants to use mobile and portable equipment. Rules also encourage outreach and interaction with the broader unlicensed public to educate and promote the benefits of Amateur Radio activities.

Chris, AA6AT, introduced Katie, KN6APB, who reported attending another special Field Day coordinating meeting, hosted by KARO-ECHO, on Zoom on June 6, 2022.

It was reported that a permit was secured from the City of El Cerrito and the event will happen at Canyon Trail Park, 6757 Gatto Ave., El Cerrito, CA. Field Day will happen there on Saturday, June 25, 2022.

5 stations have been organized and captains determined as follows:

- VHF/UHF EmComm - Jay Fenton, KJ6WSS
- HF Get on the Air (GOTA) - Katie Carney, KN6APB
- HF Voice/Phone - Howdy Goudey, KE6BEE
- HF CW - Don Simon, NI6A
- HF Digital - Frans Kuypers, KJ6IUV

Contact logging software created by N3FJP is being used. The five stations will have laptops loaded with it. Those thinking about operating from home or operating elsewhere at the park beyond the formal stations are encouraged to use this software to ease aggregating the results, which will get sent to the ARRL for scoring. N3FJP prices the software at \$8.99 for permanent use. Demos are free, but are limited to 30 contacts. More info at <https://www.n3fjp.com/fieldday.html>

Captains will be responsible for securing the resources to setup, operate, and tear down their station. Power is expected to be done with batteries. There may be some power augmented with solar power.

Station setup will begin at approximately 7:00 a.m. The Field Day contest starts at 11:00 a.m. PDT. Operating is expected to end at approximately 7 p.m. Tear-down will occur between 7 and 8 p.m. The park needs to be vacated at or before 8 p.m.

Volunteers are needed; to operate, to log contacts, to answer questions, to distribute information and refreshments, and to take photos. A sign-up sheet has been prepared and is being finalized. It will be distributed via e-mail soon [see p. 2 – Editor]. Members wanting to operate or to log contacts at a station are encouraged to sign up to reserve time. Doing so reduces possibility of schedule conflicts. Given the pandemic restrictions, Field Day will provide everyone who can get out a reason to come down and socialize around the theme of Amateur Radio. It will also provide those who operate mainly in the VHF/UHF bands an opportunity to operate on HF and vice versa.

The public outreach / public relations efforts were reported. Banners, handouts, and signs to identify the stations are being developed. Media and public officials have been notified and invited to attend. Efforts to reach out to STEM teachers are also being considered.

There was discussion about power issues. Power will be done using battery power. There may be a need to have converters between 12 volt systems and devices with other power levels. Power connections are expected to use the Andersen Powerpole standards. There was some discussion about how stations were set up during Field Day 2021.

The EBARC Executive Committee committed to provide financial support for the event up to \$400.00.

One more Field Day coordination meeting will occur in the evening of June 20, 2022

Chris thanked attendees for coming to tonight's meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m. Next meeting is July 8, 2022.

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## **Book Review: *Playing with Meteors* Todd Teachout, W8BIK**

*Playing with Meteors*, by Eric Nichols, KL7AJ, *CQ Communications*, copyright 2022, \$26.95

I saw the title and thought the book would be about making contacts via meteor trails. Instead I found a thoroughly entertaining overview of the amateur radio hobby. Eric Nichols is a frequent contributor to both *QST* and *CQ* amateur radio magazines. He has previously written books about radio science and propagation matters. This 142-page book is targeted for those who are on the cusp of whether or not to get an amateur radio license, as well as for newly licensed people. It is also helpful for radio hobbyists / licensees needing a consolidated overview of the many facets of the hobby and guidance to learn more. For those who think amateur radio is in decline, he provides several arguments to rebut such thoughts. Through his points he suggests what most of us EBARC members already know, that amateur radio is a fun hobby for all and an appealing on-ramp into STEM careers. I can say with certainty that knowing amateur radio principles would have been useful in my required coursework in physics, electrical engineering, and higher levels of mathematics (way back when - in my early life).

Nichols' love of the hobby is evident on nearly every page. He rolls out facts clearly without resorting to many equations. He provides stories and anecdotes to reinforce the points he is making. He presents his points with humor and provides hundreds of Internet links to allow further exploration of matters; spark

transmitters, classic *QST* cartoons, radio exploration of deep space, and more. I hope to explore the many links in the near future.

The only concern I had was how people who would benefit most from the book will find it and read it. This includes young people wondering about and planning for future careers and their instructors / mentors. The book is being published and marketed through *CQ* magazine, which is generally found at ham radio stores, not general bookstores. So there is the "preaching to the choir" challenge; how to get the info out there to the broader public. In my situation I'm going to suggest my 15 year old grandson and 13 year old granddaughter read this. If successful, I will then help them with the resources to get a Tech license. I hope you consider getting a copy, read it, then forwarding it to a young person, new licensee, or teacher.

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Many thanks to Michael McMillan, K6MCM, for preafrooding this month's *Blown Fuse*.

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## **How to Find a VE Test Session Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ**

As the liaison for the East Bay ARRL VE team, I share your frustration with our continued inability to secure our testing site post-COVID. The ARRL lists amateur radio test sessions. For instance, there is one at UC Berkeley on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Here's how to find ARRL tests:

<https://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>

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### ***Why English is so Hard to Learn***

***The bandage was wound around the wound.***

***The farm was cultivated to produce produce.***

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## Future Bay Area Events

- Current Bay Area Public Service Events: See [www.ebarc.org](http://www.ebarc.org), click on “Current Events”, then scroll to “Calendar of Bay Area Ham Radio Public Service Events.”
- EBARC, ORCA, and ARCA sponsor joint ARRL VEC Amateur Radio test sessions quarterly at 9 a.m. in the Media Room, 1605 Martin Luther King Jr. Way (at 16<sup>th</sup> St.), Oakland. Because of

COVID, the 2022 dates have not been set. The fee is \$15. Candidates must preregister at [davidotey@comcast.net](mailto:davidotey@comcast.net) or call 510-741-8227.

- East Bay Section ARRL ARES; [arrl.volunteerhub.com/lp/eb](http://arrl.volunteerhub.com/lp/eb). CoCoCo ACS Training: Details from “DJ” djovida, KJ6DJ, [kj6dj@arrl.net](mailto:kj6dj@arrl.net), (415) 215-6658, or via RACES net, 6:45 p.m., Thursdays on 145.11 MHz. Also see Sheriff Office’s Communications Unit David Nielson, K6CDN, [davidnielson@yahoo.com](mailto:davidnielson@yahoo.com)

The East Bay Amateur Radio Club, founded in 1947, is a California non-profit organization of amateur radio operators in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. The club is open to anyone interested in amateur radio. Annual dues are \$30 for individual membership, \$35 for a family membership, and \$10 for students K-12. For information, send email to [ebham.office@gmail.com](mailto:ebham.office@gmail.com), contact any EBARC officer, see website [www.ebarc.org](http://www.ebarc.org), or write EBARC, P.O. Box 1393, El Cerrito, CA 94530. You can also follow us on Twitter using @w6cus, or on Facebook's "East Bay Amateur Radio Club."

## 2022 East Bay Amateur Radio Club Executive Committee

Chris Harwood, AA6AT, President ..... [president@ebarc.org](mailto:president@ebarc.org)  
 Katie Carney, KN6APB, 1<sup>st</sup> VP / Program Chair ..... 510-326-3886  
 Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP / Membership Chair ..... 510-741-8227  
 Todd Teachout, W8BIK, Secretary ..... 510-799-6051  
 Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, Treasurer / Finance Chair ..... 510-682-7938

## 2022 EBARC's Other Committee Heads and Contacts

Steering Committee: Katie Carney, KN6APB ..... 510-326-3886  
 Social Media: Katie Carney, KN6APB ..... 510-326-3886  
*Blown Fuse* Editor: Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ ..... 510-741-8227  
 W6CUS Trustee: Chris Harwood, AA6AT ..... [president@ebarc.org](mailto:president@ebarc.org)  
 Webmaster: Chris Harwood, AA6AT ..... [president@ebarc.org](mailto:president@ebarc.org)

## AMATEUR RADIO NETS

NET	DAYS	LOCAL TIME	FREQ, MHZ
"Over the Hill Gang" Breakfast/Commute Net	Mo-Fr	0710 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Contra Costa Com. Club Digital Net (by arrangement)	Tue*	1900 (PL 82.5+)	444.275
Contra Costa Communications Club Net	Tue	1930 (PL 82.5-)	224.300
"QRM Net"	Tue	1930 (PL 82.5-)	224.300
UCB ARC (W6BB) EMMCOMM Net	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	1200 (PL 131.8+)	440.900
UCB ARC (W6BB) EMMCOMM Net	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	1200 (PL 107.2-)	145.490
UCB ARC (W6BB) EMMCOMM Net	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	1200 simplex	145.430
UCB ARC (W6BB) Club Net	Wed	1900 (PL 103.5+)	442.275
West Contra Costa EMCOMM Net	Thu	1845 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
KARO/ECHO ARES EMCOMM Net	Thu	~1900 simplex	146.415
NALCO ARES EMCOMM Net	Thu	1915 (PL 131.8+)	440.900
Oakland ARES Emergency Communications Net	Thu	1930 (PL 77-)	146.880
Contra Costa Communications Club Net	Thu	1930 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Bay Shores Richmond EMCOMM Net	Sat	0900 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Bay Shores Richmond EMCOMM Net	Sat	0915 (PL 82.5+)	444.275
Bay Shores Richmond EMCOMM Net	Sat	0930 (PL 82.5-)	224.300

ACS West CoCoCo: "DJ" djovida, KJ6DJ, [kj6dj@arrl.net](mailto:kj6dj@arrl.net), (415) 215-6658.\*  
 Frequencies: #1=145.110, #2=147.570s.